

Amendment to the Abstract of the Disclosure

Please replace the existing Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

Apparatus for applying a biocide liquid composition to billets formed from sugar cane stalks ~~is disclosed.~~ In one embodiment of the invention, the apparatus is comprised of a container for containing the liquid composition, a conduit in fluid communication with the container, and one or more nozzles in fluid communication with the conduit, the apparatus being sized and configured for connection to a billet-type sugar cane harvester so that the nozzles are disposed to direct the liquid composition onto the billets either before or as they are received by a hopper configured to receive the billets dispensed from the harvester during operation of the harvester. Related improvements to harvesters and methods of inhibiting microbial degradation of sugar cane, ~~are also disclosed.~~

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